

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A separator for alkaline batteries (i) which comprises a non-woven fiber structural material comprising a polyamide fiber and a cellulose fiber as main component fibers, wherein

(ii) the polyamide fiber is a fiber formed with a polyamide constituted with a dicarboxylic acid unit and a diamine unit, the dicarboxylic acid unit comprising 60% by mole or more and 100% by mole or less of a terephthalic acid unit and the diamine unit comprising 40% by mole or more and 99% by mole or less of a 1,9-nonanediamine unit, wherein a chain end sealing agent used in the preparation of the polyamide is used in an amount in the range of 4 to 10 % by mole based on the total of the amount by mole of the dicarboxylic acid and the amount by mole of the diamine, and an intrinsic viscosity of the polyamide is 0.6 to 1.0 dl/g;

(iii) the cellulose fiber is a solvent-spun cellulose fiber produced by using a spinning solution prepared by dissolving cellulose into a non-reactive solvent; and

(iv) a ratio of an amount by mass of the polyamide fiber to an amount by mass of the cellulose fiber in the non-woven fiber structural material is in a range of 20:80 to 50:50, and wherein

the polyamide forming the polyamide fiber comprises a 2-methyl-1,8-octanediamine unit in combination with the 1,9-nonanediamine unit, and a ratio of an amount by mole of the 1,9-nonanediamine unit to an amount by mole of the 2-methyl-1,8-octanediamine unit in the polyamide is in a range of 55:45 to 40:60.

Claim 2 (Canceled)

Claim 3 (Previously Presented): A separator for alkaline batteries according to claim 1, wherein the polyamide forming the polyamide fiber has a fraction of sealed chain ends of 35 % or greater.

Claim 4 (Previously Presented): A separator for alkaline batteries according to claim 1, wherein a size of a single fiber in the polyamide fiber is in a range of 0.01 to 0.8 dtex.

Claim 5 (Previously Presented): A separator for alkaline batteries according to claim 1, wherein the cellulose fiber is a solvent-spun cellulose fiber obtained by dry-wet spinning in water of a spinning solution prepared by dissolving cellulose into an amine oxide.

Claim 6 (Previously Presented): A separator for alkaline batteries according to claim 1, wherein the main component fibers are adhered together with a fiber-shaped binder.

Claim 7 (Previously Presented): A separator for alkaline batteries according to claim 6, wherein an amount of the fiber-shaped binder is in a range of 3 to 30% by mass based on a total of an amount by mass of the main component fibers and an amount by mass of the fiber shaped binder.

Claim 8 (Previously Presented): An alkaline battery which is equipped with a separator for alkaline batteries described in claim 1.